

## ALBANIA

### a. SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
I. TERRITORIAL SEA	Sep 52	Decree No. 1535	10nm	
	Jul 59	Decree No. 2960	10nm	
	Sep 61	Decree No. 3321	10nm	
	Apr 70	Decree No. 4650	12nm	Foreign warships and military airplanes may enter into Albanian territorial sea and air space only with special authorization.
				This requirement is not recognized by the U.S. U.S. protested requirement in 1989 and conducted operational assertions in 1985 and 1986.
	Feb 76	Decree No. 5384	15nm	
	Mar 90	Decree No. 7366 (modifying Decrees No. 4650 & 5384)	12nm	
II. ARCHIPELAGIC, STRAIGHT BASELINES, & HISTORIC CLAIMS	Jul 59	Decree No. 2960		Established straight baselines for northern two-thirds of national coastline.
	Apr 70	Decree No. 4650		Straight baselines reiterated.
	Feb 76	Decree No. 5384		Baseline modifications.
	Mar 90	Decree No. 7366		Straight baselines reiterated.
				These straight baselines claims are not recognized by the U.S. U.S. protested baselines in 1989.
IV. CONTINENTAL SHELF	Dec 64			Became party to the 1958 Convention on the Continental Shelf.
	Apr 70	Decree No. 4650		
V. FISHING ZONE/EEZ	Sep 52	Decree No. 1535	12nm	Fishery zone.
	Feb 76	Decree No. 5384	15nm	Fishery zone.
VII. MARITIME BOUNDARIES	Dec 92	Treaty		Continental Shelf Agreement with Italy signed.
VIII. LOS CONVENTION				Did not sign.

## **b. DOMESTIC LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS**

### **1. ALBANIAN STRAIGHT BASELINES**

#### **A. LEGISLATION**

Following is the text of Decree No. 7366, dated 24 March 1990 -- a Modification to Decree No. 4650, dated 9 March 1990, on the State Border of the People's Republic of Albania, regarding the Albanian territorial sea and straight baseline system:

Article 1 -- The first paragraph, Article 4, of Decree No. 4650, dated 9 March 1990, should be modified as follows:

"The territorial waters of the People's Republic of Albania are extended along the entire coastline over a width of 12 nautical miles (22,224 m), beginning with the basic straight line running from Rodon Cape (Muzhli), Palle Cape, Lagji Cape (Turra Castle), Seman Cape, the Josa River estuary, the north-eastern shore of Sazan Island, Gjuheza and Grama Gulf Cape, then between the Albanian shore and the Greek islands up to the middle of the Corfu Channel. The width of the territorial waters from the Buna River estuary to Rodon Cape is extended up to the Albanian-Yugoslavian border line."

Article 2 -- This decree enters into force 15 days following its publication in the Official Newspaper.

#### **B. ANALYSIS**

The following analysis of the Albanian straight baseline system is extracted from Limits in the Seas, No. 116, "Straight Baseline Claims: Albania and Egypt," 6 May 1994.

The [1990] Decree defines the baselines geographically by citing seven different features on the Albanian coastline, but giving no coordinates. The baseline lengths range from about 5 miles to approximately 16 miles.

<u>Coastline Points</u>		<u>Distance between Points</u> (miles - approximate)	
Cape Rondo	to	Cape Palla	11
Cape Palla	to	Cape Lagji	16
Cape Lagji	to	Cape Seman	14
Cape Seman	to	Vjose River	15
Vjose River	to	Sazan Island	10
Sazan Island	to	Cape Gjuheza	5

There is only one island, Sazan Island, used as a basepoint, so the "fringing islands" criterion, cited in Article 7 of the LOS Convention, cannot be used to justify the straight baselines. Moreover, the coastline is relatively smooth and, therefore, the "deeply indented" coastline requirement is not met. Vlores Bay can be defined as a juridical bay by drawing a closing line which would be situated landward of Sazan Island. Other than this closing line, the baseline for the remaining Albanian coast should be the "normal" baseline, which is the low-water line as marked on large-scale charts officially recognized by Albania.